

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/733,087
Amendment dated May 26, 2004
Reply to OA of March 31, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been canceled and claim 8 added in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **March 31, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,103).

Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been canceled. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,103) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,1103) as applied to claims 1, 3 and 5 above respectively, in view of Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,446).

Claims 2 and 4-6 have been canceled. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2 and 4-6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,1103) in view of Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,446) is respectfully requested.

New Claim

The present invention is a method for providing character contents in the form of images.

As illustrated in Figure 3, the present invention begins in step 100 by requesting a screen for inputting a request from the sever (3). Upon receipt of the screen, in step 120, the client terminal (2) inputs the request and transmits the request to the server (3) in step 150. Thereafter, a search of the database (9) is performed and in step 180 it is determined if the data must be protected. If the data does not need to be protected, it is transmitted as character data to the client terminal in step 210. If the data needs to be protected, then it is converted to image data in step 200 and transmitted to the client terminal (2) as image data in step 210.

Schreiber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,103) describes a method of providing textual information. The method begins by receiving a request via a network for text-editable textual information. The text-editable textual information is converted to non-text-editable textual information which is a graphic format such as a GIF or JPEG file. This graphic image textual data is then transmitted to the requestor via the network.

Claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A system for providing character contents in the form of images, comprising:
(a) a contents providing system connected to a client terminal through a network such that they can be communicate with each other; (b) storage means disposed in a server of the contents providing system for storing character contents as character data; (c) search means provided at the server for searching the storage means when there is a request for retrieval of character contents from the client terminal to read the requested character contents; (d) conversion means provided at the server for dynamically converting the read character contents from character data to image data; and (e) contents information transmission means provided at the server for

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transmitting the image data as a result of the conversion of the character contents to the client terminal, wherein the character data includes at least an index of the contents and the character data is converted to image data when it is determined that the character data must be protected, wherein a determination is made on each part of the character contents read from the storage means to see whether it needs to be converted into image data and wherein only character data which must be converted are converted into image data, wherein the client terminal and the server of the contents providing system are connected to the internet; a front server and a back server connected to the internet are provided in the server; and a database as the storage means is provided in the back server, wherein the search means and conversion means are provided in the front server.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, allowance of new claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 8, as added, is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/alw
Atty. Docket No. **001636**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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